

2021 ECONOMIC REPORT KANSAS CITY REGION



DEPARTMENT OF
HIGHER EDUCATION &
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The Kansas City Region is comprised of five counties in the west central part of Missouri. The region is home to several cities including Kansas City and Independence.

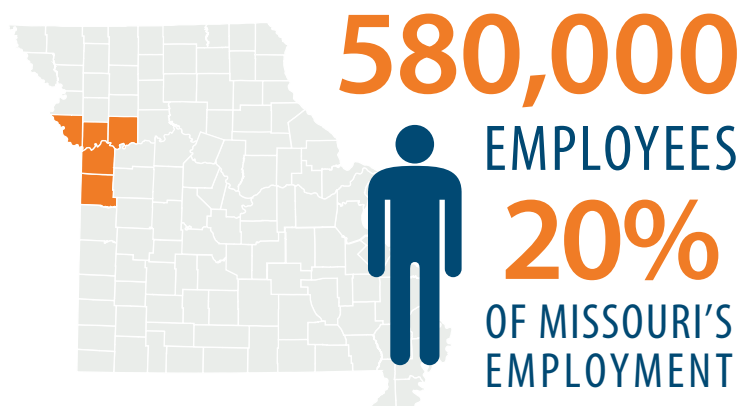
The Kansas City Region workforce has almost 580,000 employees, making up 20 percent of Missouri's employment. In 2020, 50 percent of the workforce was female and 50 percent was male. The regional average unemployment rate in 2020 was 6.6 percent.

The workforce is getting older in the Kansas City Region, a trend happening throughout Missouri and the U.S. In 2020, 23 percent of the workforce was age 55 or older, up from 19 percent a decade earlier.

For the region, 20 percent of the workforce was non-white, compared to 17 percent for the state; 7 percent of the region's workforce was Hispanic or Latino, compared to 4 percent for Missouri.

In the Kansas City Region, 9 percent of the region's population (ages 18 to 64) speaks a language other than English at home. By comparison, Missouri was at 7 percent and the U.S. was at 23 percent.

The Kansas City Region has a lower percentage of the population with a disability compared to the state. For the region, 11 percent of the population has a disability compared to 12 percent in Missouri and 10 percent in the U.S.



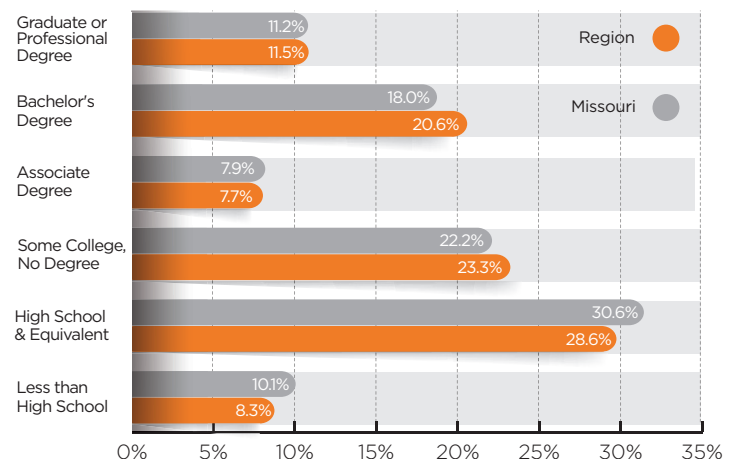
Workforce Demographics

	K.C. Region	Missouri	Nationwide
Average Monthly Employment in 2020	579,356	2,867,162	147,795,000
Average Unemployment Rate in 2020	6.6%	6.1%	8.1%
Female	50%	51%	50%
Male	50%	49%	50%
Non-White	20%	17%	24%
Hispanic or Latino	7%	4%	16%
Ages 55 and Older	23%	24%	24%
With Disabilities (Ages 18-64)	11%	12%	10%
Below Poverty Levels (Ages 18-64)	11%	13%	13%
Language other than English (Ages 18-64)	9%	7%	23%
Education of Associate Degree or Higher	40%	37%	41%

SOURCES: CENSUS ACS 2019-5YR EST.; LEHD 2ND QUARTER; BLS LAUS 2020

Educational attainment rates for the Kansas City Region are slightly higher than those of the state in regards to bachelor's or advanced degrees. Forty percent of the region's population, age 25 and older, has an associate, bachelor's, or advanced degree compared to 37 percent for the state.

Educational Attainment



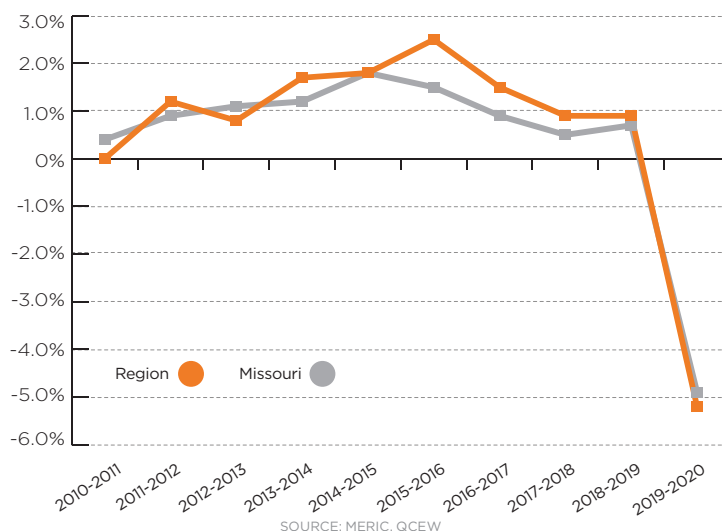
SOURCE: US CENSUS BUREAU, ACS 2019 5-YEAR ESTIMATES

KANSAS CITY REGION

INDUSTRY ANALYSIS

The Kansas City Region averaged almost 530,000 jobs in 2020. The region lost 29,274 jobs from 2019 to 2020, declining 5.2 percent. Missouri employment decreased by 4.9 percent in that time. From 2016 to 2020, the Kansas City Region averaged -0.5 percent annual growth for an overall decrease of 2 percent; during that same period Missouri's employment declined by 2.9 percent.

Kansas City Employment Annual Growth Rate



The *Health Care and Social Assistance* industry continues to have the highest employment in the Kansas City region, with over 82,800 jobs in 2020. *Retail Trade* is the second largest industry, even though it lost over 1,100 jobs from 2016 to 2020, a decrease of 0.4 percent annually for the region.

Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services grew by 1.8 percent annually, adding over 3,700 jobs from 2016 to 2020. *Accommodation and Food Services* lost over 6,200 jobs, for an annual decline of 3 percent from 2016 to 2020. *Accommodation and Food Services* was gaining employment from 2016 to 2019, but lost employment from 2019 to 2020 and was seriously affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Kansas City Region Top Employing Industries

Industry	Employment		2016-2020		2019 Annual Wages
	2016	2020	Net Change	Empl. CAGR	
Health Care & Social Assistance	78,997	82,884	3,887	1.2%	\$54,096
Retail Trade	63,578	62,455	-1,123	-0.4%	\$31,704
Professional, Science & Tech. Servs.	49,326	53,063	3,737	1.8%	\$90,156
Accommodation & Food Services	54,101	47,825	-6,276	-3.0%	\$22,128
Manufacturing	44,092	44,609	517	0.3%	\$65,544
Educational Services	37,292	37,055	-237	-0.2%	\$43,176
Administrative Support & Waste	34,120	32,089	-2,031	-1.5%	\$37,092
Construction	27,552	30,014	2,462	2.2%	\$67,584
Finance and Insurance	29,719	28,717	-1,002	-0.9%	\$89,748
Wholesale Trade	23,892	26,070	2,178	2.2%	\$75,552
Transportation & Warehousing	22,925	23,828	903	1.0%	\$47,784
Other Services (ex. Publ. Adm.)	15,985	15,645	-340	-0.5%	\$41,040

SOURCE: LEHD-QWI, 2016-2020 2ND QUARTER

LOCATION QUOTIENT

To understand the major industries within a region, an analysis of industry concentration or clustering can be useful. The Location Quotient (LQ) describes the concentration of an industry in a geographic region, in relation to the nation, with 1.0 being the national average. Industries higher than 1.0 indicate a concentration.

The Kansas City Region has higher concentrations in *Transportation Equipment Manufacturing*, *Data Processing and Hosting and Related Services*, and *Paper Manufacturing*.



TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURING

2020 Kansas City Region Location Quotients

Industry	Employment	Location Quotient
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	11,105	1.9
Data Processing, Hosting, & Related Services	2,316	1.8
Paper Manufacturing	2,189	1.7
Admin of Housing & Urban Planning	556	1.6
Postal Service	3,418	1.6
Performing Arts, Spectator Sports...	1,865	1.5
Insurance Carriers & Related Activities	13,224	1.5
Professional, Scientific, & Technical Servs.	49,187	1.4
Printing & Related Support Activities	1,929	1.4
Justice, Public Order, & Safety Activities	9,509	1.4
Support Activities for Transportation	3,719	1.4
Computer & Electronic Product Manufacturing	4,891	1.3
Truck Transportation	6,775	1.3
Gasoline Stations	4,143	1.3
Transit & Ground Passenger Transportation	2,746	1.2

SOURCE: BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, QCEW

KANSAS CITY REGION

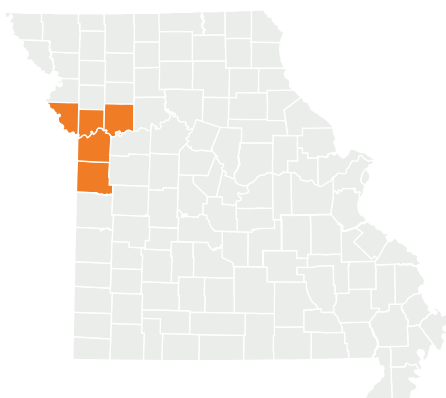
Projected growth by industry helps to identify future employment needs for an area. Projections indicate that the largest growth industries in the Kansas City Region will continue to be *Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services*, *Ambulatory Health Care Services*, *Social Assistance*, *Hospitals*, *Specialty Trade Contractors*, and *Food and Beverage Stores*.

Kansas City Region Largest Growth Industries 2018-2028

Industry	Employment		Change	
	2018 Estimated	2028 Projected	2018-2028 Numeric	Percent
Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services	50,577	59,666	9,089	18.0%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	23,448	28,496	5,048	21.5%
Social Assistance	16,233	20,431	4,198	25.9%
Hospitals	30,818	33,264	2,446	7.9%
Specialty Trade Contractors	17,918	19,356	1,438	8.0%
Food & Beverage Stores	11,930	12,947	1,017	8.5%
Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	12,862	13,442	580	4.5%
Health & Personal Care Stores	3,840	4,232	392	10.2%
Gasoline Stations	4,237	4,597	360	8.5%
Federal Government, Excluding Post Office	15,190	15,534	344	2.3%

SOURCES: MERIC INDUSTRY PROJECTIONS

PROJECTED GROWTH BY INDUSTRY HELPS TO IDENTIFY FUTURE EMPLOYMENT NEEDS FOR AN AREA.



OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS

MERIC produces occupational projections that estimate labor demand over a 10-year period. MERIC categorizes these occupations using its Now-Next-Later method to help job seekers understand the training, education, and experience requirements for various occupations.

Now jobs typically require short-term on-the-job training, little to no experience, and/or a high school diploma. Now occupations include *Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers*, *Cashiers*, and *Waiters and Waitresses* which lead the way in total openings. Health care related positions, including *Personal Care Aides* and *Home Health Aides* and are projected to be the fastest growing Now occupations over the next decade.

Next jobs typically require a non-degree certificate, associate degree, apprenticeship, some experience, or moderate- to long-term training. *Secretaries and Administrative Assistants*, *Assemblers and Fabricators*, and *Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers* will have the most openings for the Next category of occupations. *Phlebotomists*, *Occupational Therapists Assistants*, and *Physical Therapists Assistants* are the fastest growing Next occupations.

Later jobs typically require a bachelor's degree or higher. For Later occupations, *General and Operations Managers* and *Registered Nurses* will have the most openings. *Information Security Analysts*, *Statisticians*, and *Software Developers, Applications* are the fastest growing Later occupations.

Kansas City Region Fastest Growing Occupations



NOTE: OCCUPATIONS WITH NET INCREASE OF LESS THAN 50 ARE OMITTED

SOURCE: MERIC OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS, 2018-2028

★ DENOTES OCCUPATIONS TOP TEN ONLINE JOB ADS FOR 2019-2020 IN THE REGION AND WITHIN THE NOW-NEXT-LATER CLASSIFICATIONS

KANSAS CITY REGION

Kansas City Region Long-Term Occupational Projections by Top Openings

Occupation	2018 Estimated Employment	2028 Projected Employment	Growth Openings	Exits	Transfers	Total Openings	Median Wages
NOW							
Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers	14,274	16,687	2,413	1,234	1,522	2,997	\$19,988 ★
Cashiers	15,272	15,378	106	1,368	1,523	2,902	\$22,030
Waiters and Waitresses	10,966	11,597	631	783	1,382	2,228	\$19,115 ★
Retail Salespersons	14,794	14,254	-540	835	1,287	2,068	\$23,255 ★
Personal Care Aides	9,282	12,703	3,421	812	720	1,874	\$22,429
NEXT							
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants	13,447	12,169	-1,278	656	777	1,305	\$36,905 ★
Assemblers and Fabricators, All Other	10,233	8,965	-1,268	393	725	991	\$37,803
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	8,104	8,400	296	340	598	968	\$44,484 ★
Cooks, Restaurant	4,902	5,930	1,028	288	479	870	\$28,132
Nursing Assistants	6,701	7,316	615	377	409	848	\$26,348 ★
LATER							
General and Operations Managers	10,860	11,567	707	235	739	1,045	\$84,041 ★
Registered Nurses	14,576	16,463	1,887	431	398	1,018	\$66,614 ★
Software Developers, Applications	6,268	8,349	2,081	101	413	722	\$88,153 ★
Accountants and Auditors	6,782	7,289	507	198	457	706	\$62,185 ★
Secondary School Teachers	5,792	5,891	99	162	247	419	\$50,609

SOURCE: MERIC OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS 2018-2028

★ DENOTES OCCUPATIONS IN THE TOP TEN FOR 2020-2021 ON-LINE JOB ADS IN THE REGION & WITHIN THE NOW-NEXT-LATER CLASSIFICATION

DEPARTMENT OF
HIGHER EDUCATION &
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

For more information, visit
meric.mo.gov or dhewd.mo.gov



This report was prepared by the staff of the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC) as part of the Missouri Workforce Report. All data in this report was current at the time of publication and is subject to revision. Additional details on data sources can be found in the full report.

This workforce solution was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The solution was created by the grantee and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information, including any information on linked sites and including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability, or ownership.